

City of Vernonia Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade

Water Finance Forum
March 31, 2016



Waste Water Treatment Upgrade

- Original plan was to incorporate more storage capacity to lagoon system
- City of Vernonia searched for funding to design system upgrade
- The city was originally awarded DEQ funding to upgrade facility in 2006

December 4, 2007 Flood

○ Devastating Floods

December
4, 2007



Waste Water Lagoons
Breached

DEQ Funding-New Plan

- Originally awarded DEQ funding in 2006
- The original plan for facility upgrade was thrown out
- New design was required that included flood proofing lagoons
- New design also needed to “rethink” solution to storage of effluent

Design of WWTP Upgrade

- Using DEQ funds the design of facility upgrades was complete
- With the current funding City was looking at rate increase to utility customers
- The city investigated other funding sources to maximize the benefit to citizens

USDA Funding Opportunity

- Entered into agreement 2015 with USDA
- Option to refinance portion of debt
- Opportunity to access grant funding



3ft. Elevation of sewer lagoon dike roads

Hyporheic discharge system to increase treatment capacity

WWTP Project Completion

- Waste Water System upgrade completion in 2017
- Rates for Utility Customers remains stable
- Flood proofing of lagoons and treatment capacity increased

